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Thank you for reading The Conaway Chronicle, a weekly review of my activities in Congress. This newsletter is to let you know what's going on in Washington and what important issues are being debated in Congress.

Second Session of 110th Congress Begins

After spending the Christmas holidays in Texas, I returned to Washington last week to begin work on the many significant issues facing the American people. During my extended time in District 11, I had the opportunity to visit with many constituents and hear how issues such as the economy, immigration, and the War in Iraq are affecting their daily lives. I always benefit from hearing your views as it helps me represent you better in Congress.



As far as the legislative agenda for the 2nd Session is concerned, the Democrats have yet to announce their plans for 2008. I will continue to push the debate on the vital issues of immigration reform, spending restraint, and entitlement spending. I will continue to update you on these and other pressing national issues as they happen.

S-MINER Bill Undermines Job Security

Last week was light legislatively, but the House did pass **H.R. 2768**, the S-MINER Act (Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act).

Along with many workers in the mining industry, I opposed this flawed bill and voted against it. This measure guts the MINER Act passed by the Republican-led 109th Congress after the tragedy at the Sago Mine in West Virginia, and could put the lives of miners all over the country at risk. It proposes an expansive and expensive federal mandate that will burden employers and put thousands of jobs at risk. I found this costly bill to be unacceptable in a time when our economy is slowing.

The State of our Economy

The effects of the declining economy are being felt by many people; higher energy and food prices and lower home equity values are weighing heavily on consumer spending. For the most part, Texas has been spared from the economic downturn. Most of the places I visit throughout District 11 are still prosperous.

Nationally, the Democrats' constant threats of tax increases and anti-business legislation are beginning to be believed by more and more Americans. Last week, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke came to testify to the House Budget Committee, of which I am a member. He testified that, "A fiscal initiative at this juncture could prove quite counterproductive, if (for example) it provided economic stimulus at the wrong time or compromised fiscal



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discipline in the longer term.”

As Congress debates a economic stimulus package, we must walk the fine line of designing a package that is immediate, temporary and targeted to sectors that would most improve economic growth in the short run without causing long-term economic damage. [Click here](#) to listen to my podcast on this issue.

The Conaway Chronicle will be issued every week when Congress is in session. I hope that you will find it informative and will continue to stay informed with my recent legislative activities in Washington. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for future issues of the Conaway Chronicle, please visit the website at www.house.gov/conaway or don't hesitate to call me at (202) 225-3605. Check out my blog at www.conawayblog.com!

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